

# SPARKS

W9OG



MARCH 1976

Fay Gehres W9AIN  
2232 Powell Ave.  
Evansville, Ind. 47714  
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EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

## Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

TARS regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Second and Virginia Streets at the "Lighthouse" on the Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The officers and directors meetings will be held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8 p.m. local time on the WR9ADQ repeater. 147.75-15 Mhz.

### OFFICERS

PRES: Thomas Dick WA9QDZ  
VP: Randy Riggs WB9RDS  
SEC: Steve Harris WB9OYD  
TREAS: Mike McNeely K9HCK  
EDITOR: John Kell K9TKE

### DIRECTORS

Robert Barrett WB9LCA  
Charles Redding WA9WCE  
Terry McCrary WB9KQF  
Mike Townsend W9KXP  
Hazel Flippin WB9RIU  
Ken Small WA9HGA

### From the Desk of the President WA9QDZ

Well hello everybody! Another month's gone by, and here we are again. A lot of things have happened since the last paper was published. The board of directors felt it was necessary to publish a series of operational techniques. Since there are more new people on the repeater every day. What is included in the SPARKS this month is a resume of a letter which will go to all new amateurs who use the repeater. The issuance of these rules does not mean that there are a lot of bad operating techniques among the people using the repeater but it was felt that we needed to point out a few things. Also, this permits something to be brought out about finances.

(over)

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In the board of directors meeting last month it was pointed out that over a hundred people using the repeater now and since the first of January (when we agreed that we would contribute annually to its operation) only nine individuals have made any financial contributions. I'm urging that you support the repeater. It is separate from the club dues. We would like for you to contribute about \$10 a year. Let your conscience be your guide but certainly more than nine people use the repeater regularly, wouldn't you say?

Now let's go on to some other things. It seems some of my young Hams in the area were having trouble getting a certain friend of theirs up to the 5 w.p.m. code speed to take his novice exam. As the story goes, they contrived a scheme where they told him that a 10w.p.m. code tape they had made for him was actually 5 w.p.m. Well, after many frustrating hours on this tape he went back to them and said that he was getting it now but still missing a word here and there. They proceeded to make him come to me to take his novice code test. I don't know if this guy had a lot of persistence or whether the kids were a little bit inventive in getting their friend up to code speed. At last we've added another Ham by hook or crook but I don't know if I would like the way that they went about it but I welcome him aboard anyway. I'll tell you one thing people, I sure wouldn't have WB9MMU as a code instructor, he sure sounds rough.

At the last board meeting we decided to drop the etching bit until fall. One thing led to another and frankly it was a case of your president not having the time and a whole bunch of other things including the Ham fest coming up and it was simply not possible to work it into the many other activities.

We have a new Secretary as of this last month, Steve Harris, WB9OYD. He has consented to take Steve's place, WB9MDB. So be looking for Steve's summary of the board meeting in our paper each month.

I know there's been something about our Monday night classes in each issue but I haven't called your attention to the guys that have helped put this class on each Monday night. They include WB9FNN; Frank Hirt, and Dallas Fucus. Anyway a lot of people are going out of

their way to help create some new novices and to upgrade the oldtimers. You might tell them that you appreciate them helping the Amateur Radio cause.

As my mind continues to meander I might point out that we received two feelers in the last 2 weeks in reference to Oscar and it's use by AR operators. The local Vanderburg County School Administration had someone contact the ARRL and I've gotten a letter from them and a teacher down at Mt. Vernon has inquired wanting a demonstration of AR using the satellite. If you tune your rig down to 29.400 to 29.500 you will be surprised. Also 10 meters has been open lately. It's 10-15-20 minutes at a time but there is DX on it and this is outside the satellite. Look around you might be pleasantly surprised.

Something else that you may not be surprised about but I think you'll be pleased with is the meeting we have scheduled for you on Thursday night, March 11, at the Blind Assoc. starting at 7:30 p.m.

We've got some interesting things to tell you about the Ham fest, we've got a fine talk by WA9ZHT and K9FZU.

And we're going to give you some tips on getting rid of that static in your mobile rigs. Also there will be educational bits on the Doppler effect some of you will be experiencing on the satellite.

So plan to come early to renew old acquaintances and make some new friends. Wear your name tags if you will please! WA9QDZ

#### BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES

The first request has come from the directors of the Evansville Freedom Festival parade to area hams, to again provide communications for the Parade. It is a working afternoon for those who participate, but it can be fun. Parade date is Saturday, June 26. We have been told the parade will be limited to 2 hours in length, and preliminary thoughts seem to dictate NO WALKING. If you think you'll be available and would like to help, pass the word to one of the TARS officers or directors. ---WB9FNN---

## SKYWARN

With the coming of spring, there are lots of thin things beginning to happen as the weather begins to warm up and we look forward to the topsy-turvy weather of spring.

To begin, we want to try and get an inventory of men and equipment and where they are, so that we will know where to turn should we really need assistance. To do this, we are enclosing with this issue of SPARKS a reply card, postage paid, which we'd like each and every one of you to complete and drop in the mail. This is a joint effort of TARS, AREC, RACES and CD, with TARS extending the mailing of SPARKS to all who have checked in on the repeater and CD providing the return card and the manpower to tabulate the results.

Since this information will be of value to all ECs in the area, we will see that copies are sent to them. Be sure to fill yours out now and mail it. Don't postpone it. You'll forget it and we won't have the information.

Next on the list is a special area meeting of all ECs, Asst. ECs and other interested parties to organize and work out the details of how we can coordinate the efforts of all the hams in the Tri-State for Sky-Warn activities, emergency assistance, etc. George Wilson, W4OYI, of Owensboro is inviting all Kentucky ECs, from Paducah to Hawesville, and I am extending a similar invitation to all Indiana and Illinois ECs in the area.

The time of this meeting will be 2 PM Saturday, March 27, 1976, at the Owensboro Club facility. If you are an EC or an Asst. EC, or if you have a special interest, do come. If you know of an EC who might not see this invitation, please pass the word and ask him to attend. I hope to have Ron Lefreddo, head of the Evansville Weather Bureau office in attendance also.

### Special Meeting Notice And Invitation

Following the afternoon coordination session, at 7 PM Saturday, March 27, there will be a buffet dinner meeting. Speaking at this meeting will be George Hart, W1NJM, ARRL Communications Manager

and Dick Egbert, W8ETU, Great Lakes Division Director. Everyone is invited to attend. Place will be Cornell Restaurant in Owensboro. Cost will be \$4.50 per person. Get up a car pool and plan to be there. Or make it a day and attend the coordination meeting and stay for dinner.

HAM RADIO IS REALLY COOKING IN THE TRI-STATE  
WB9FNN Hal

### COMING SOON - WR9ACF

Coming on the air soon (within 90 days we hope) will be the new WR9ACF Repeater, under the auspices of Vanderburgh County Civil Defense Communications Group. Primary purpose of this machine will be to provide solid 2 meter emergency communications within all of Vanderburgh County, while leaving the WR9ADQ machine available for inter-county work. The repeater site will be the ComCenter building at Baker and Illinois, where the antenna and tower are already up, and good emergency power capabilities are at hand. Frequencies of the machine will be 146.19 MHz in and 146.79 MHz out. Initial authorization for the machine has been received. Biggest delay in getting it operational will be a six week wait for cavities. More details will be published as we get closer to the "on-the-air" date. This will be an open repeater, available for everyone, except during emergencies, or CD training drills.

Hal - WB9FNN

### EVANSVILLE HAMFEST

The Tri-State Amateur Radio Society will have its annual hamfest on May 16, 1976 at the 4H grounds. There will be 5 main prizes, namely, 1 Regency HR2MS (mobile scanner)  
4 Regency 4 channel VHF scanners  
Also a door prize which will be a Regency Weather monitor, and possibly other prizes not yet arranged for. Tickets are available in advance for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 and no requirement to be present to win the prizes. WB9RDS is hamfest chairman and will have more info later.

# Precision

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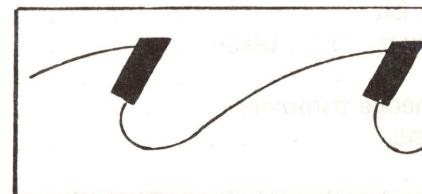
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Add 25¢ per blade for combination tooth

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0 to 12 tooth . . . . . \$.25  
14 to 36 tooth . . . . . \$.20  
38 to 80 tooth . . . . . \$.15  
82 or more tooth . . . . . \$.13

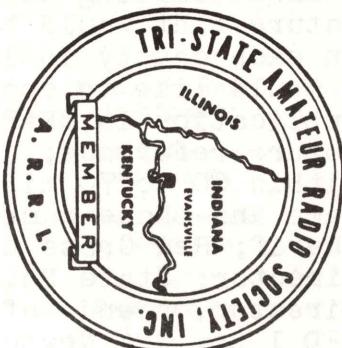
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Chain Saws . . . . . \$1.75  
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Axes, per bit . . . . . \$.75  
Rotary lawn mower blades . . . . . \$1.25  
Tin snips . . . . . \$.75  
Electric hedge trimmers . . . . . \$1.50  
Hand plane . . . . . \$.75

Remove and replace chain on Chain Saw . \$ .50  
Remove and replace rotary lawn mower blade . . . . . \$.50

Band Saw blades . . . . . \$1.50 and up

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Welcome to WR9ADQ, The Evansville Repeater. Whether you just got your ticket yesterday, or you have been on the air for twenty years, we'd like to tell you a little bit about the repeater and give you some pointers for proper repeater operation. WR9ADQ operates on 147.75mhz in and 147.15mhz out with a Motorola Motran solid state receiver and transmitter. Power output is 30 watts and receive sensitivity is .2uv. A Stationmaster Deluxe antenna is on top of a 150' tower, 550' above sea level. Full six cavity duplexing, 3/4"OD aluminum feedline, a range to mobile of 40-50 miles, and 100 watts ERP round out what we think is a mighty fine machine. All of this is located on Orchard Road about 4 miles NW of Evansville. The repeater has the ability to operate on battery power for an unknown length of time. If you hear a continuous 1 khz tone when the repeater is "on" this will indicate that the repeater is on battery power and care should be exercised to keep operating to a minimum. This will keep the machine operating for a longer period of time.

The repeater is licensed to Mike Townsend (W9KXP) and is owned by the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society. It is financed by donations from the amateurs who use it. Ten dollars (\$10.00) per year has been the usual amount.

The only hard and fast rules that govern the use of the repeater are the laws set down by the FCC. However the following guideline should be followed so that the greatest number of hams can get the most use out of the repeater.

DO keep transmissions short. Emergencies don't wait for monologues to be finished. DO pause between transmissions. Someone may have an emergency or may want to join your QSO.

DO identify properly. W9... mobile is not enough, mobile 9 is required.

DO be courteous. A repeater is like a party line, cooperation is required.

DO use simplex when possible. Leave the repeater open for those who have to have it.

DO support your repeater. Maintaining a good machine is an expensive undertaking.

DO protect your rig from unauthorized use.

DO DON'T break into an ongoing contact unless you have a reason for doing so. In that

case, just stick your call between the other stations transmissions.

DON'T key up a repeater without identifying. This is common practice, but it's as selfish and thoughtless as it is illegal.

DON'T call CQ on a repeater. Just say "This is W9... monitoring 94" or whatever. DON'T monopolize a repeater. A good repeater user does a lot of listening.

Each of us is responsible for each others operating habits. Help the new repeater user get started right. Remember that what you say over a repeater can be heard over hundreds of square miles by anyone with an inexpensive public service band monitor. Some of these folks are potential amateurs; if they like what they hear they will want to get a license and join us. We would like to have you join us at the meetings each month.

Again, welcome to the repeater, use it and have a good time!

I am attempting to obtain information of an nature that would be useful in emergencies: In each county in Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois I would like to compile the following info for publication in SPARKS as a pullout sheet for future reference; Info needed from each county within 60 to 70 miles of Evansville; Name and phone number of Emergency Coordinator; Sheriff; Red Cross Director; Salvation Army Director; State Police Post; and Civil Defence Director. Send information to John Kell K9TKE RFD 1 Box 284 Newburgh, Ind 47630 Tel 853-3082

FROM HR REPORT "10 Meter Repeaters will now be permitted according to an Order just released by the FCC. Inputs and outputs for in-band ten meter machines must lie between 29.5 and 29.7 Mhz, and cross banding to ten meters will be quite tricky since the rule change does specifically prohibit repeating the transmissions of an Amateur not authorized to operate on the 28 Mhz band."

Mike Blake, K9JRI, has been elected to chair the Indiana Repeater Council. His address is 4223 Greenway Drive, Indianapolis, Ind. 46220 Tel 317-259-7205

#### ACTIVITIES:

March 11-TARS regular meeting  
March 18-TARS directors meeting  
March 27-Owensboro meeting(see inside)  
April 22-25 Dayton Hamfest  
May 16- Evansville Hamfest  
June 12-13 VHF QSO party  
June 26-27 Field Day  
July 24-25 ARRL Bicentennial Celebration

How to be a good paper editor: find someone who knows how to write, then you have something to edit. Keep those articles coming. K9TKE

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#### ELECTRONIC SUPPLIES

Antenna, Mast and Tower	Thordarson and Triad Transformers	Sprague Condensers Utah Speakers
Push Up Mast 20-30-40-50 ft.	Blonder-Tongue Antennas	I.R.C. Controls and Resistors
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FOR SALE: 1 REGENCY HR-2, with 6 pr. xtals, 94-94, 34-94, 28-88, 40-40, 46-46, 75-15, \$135.00.  
1 COMCRAFT CTR-144, 144-148 Mhz. AM & FM 2 Meter Base Transceiver with "S" Meter, Receiver VFO & Transmitter VFO & 4 Transmit Crystals----\$185.00  
WA9OCO--George, 853-8198.

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I WOULD LIKE TO START OR CONTINUE MY MEMBERSHIP IN TARS, INCLUDING SUBSCRIPTION TO "SPARKS."

ENCLOSED: \$8 for membership and subscription, per year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Mike McNeely K9HCK  
618 Sheridan Rd.  
Evansville, Ind. 47710

SATELLITE LISTENING TIMES FOR 10 METERS RECEPTION

Oscar 6	Mar 11	0045Z	to	0105Z
Oscar 7	Mar 11	0025Z	to	0045Z
Oscar 6	Mar 13	0040Z	to	0100Z
Oscar 7	Mar 13	0020Z	to	0040Z
Oscar 6	Mar 15	0035Z	to	0055Z
Oscar 7	Mar 15	0010Z	to	0030Z
Oscar 6	Mar 18	0125Z	to	0145Z
Oscar 7	Mar 19	0155Z	to	0215Z

Later orbits may be heard 1 hour and 55 minutes later, however they will also be 28.74 degrees farther west. Reception will be 29.45 to 29.55 for Oscar 6 and 29.4 to 29.5 for Oscar 7. Remember GMT days start at 6 PM the day before. Special antennas are not necessary, but I'm sure would be helpful.

**FOR SALE: Receivers:**

Hammarlund HQ-129X \$110.00; Hammarlund HQ-150 \$175.  
Gonset G 63/xtal cal \$154.00 Gonset Communicator 4  
6 meter AM \$90.00; Gonset Power Amplifier, 50 to  
100 watts, 6 meter \$75.00; Transmitters: Johnson  
Ranger Xmtr \$85.00; Halicrafters HT-40 \$89.95;  
Halicrafters HT-37 \$175.00; Halicrafters HT-32  
\$95.00; Many other transmitters; Viking Keys;  
Call Books; Ameco Code Cassett Tapes; Ameco Code  
Records; Eico Tube Tester, Kit or Wired; Come in  
and look around: CASTRUP RADIO SUPPLY, W. Franklin  
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I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO THE WR9ADQ REPEATER  
TO HELP PAY MAINTENANCE COSTS, FOR 1976.

Enclosed Find: \$100  \$50  \$20   
\$10  OTHER

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

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Send Donations to: Mike McNeely K9HCK 618 Sheridan  
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## HOW TO BEAT THE RIP-OFF ARTISTS

PREVENTION: The following hints have come to my attention after some research:

Camouflage or detach the antenna, - Cover, hide, or otherwise disguise the fact that you have a rig, - Use special new type lock on car doors, - (no details available) don't leave rig in car overnight, - **LOCK CAR DOORS**, - Sedans are harder to get into than hard-tops, - Install burglar alarm, - Use a walkie-talkie type rig, carry it with you, use push-on type coax connectors, install amp in hidden location in car, and use a magnetic base antenna for fast removal.

RECOVERY: Evansville Police Department has an "Operation Identification". They will loan a marking tool to engrave your Social Security number, call sign, name and other marks on your rig and/or other valuables and this will make it less difficult to trace after stolen. Keep serial number of equipment on record at home. Notify police immediately when rig is stolen. Good Luck.

K9TKE

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